



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

OCTOBER 1987

PREVIEW SPRING '88: Leggy & Alluring

BRIDGE MARKET

"Back to the Body" is the key message for Spring '88. Contoured shapes, with clean lines that accentuate the figure, replace frills and tiers of seasons past. The silhouette is tapered, from the basic "T" or double-breasted jacket to a slim pencil skirt. Hemlines are still rising, while the classic walking short emerges as the new alternative. High waists look best as empire dominates in skirts and dresses.

Colors are primary in true hues of red, yellow, blue--boldly patterned in stripes, polka dots and bi-color combinations. BLASSPORT offers a raised-waist, slim skirt and short signature jacket in red, white, navy, khaki or yellow, silk gabardine. Subtler shades of muted pastels appear in florals and plaids. ADRIENNE VITTADINI's watercolor, floral silk bustier dress, with coordinating stripes, is in powder blue and wheat. Nautical groups tout navy and white in horizontal stripes from narrow to wide; while the base neutral for most collections is khaki, saving the brights for accents. A new tint on the horizon is orange. Alone or in splashes, orange looks best in toned down shades of salmon, melon or pumpkin. DANA BUCHMAN creates a shawl-collared, 26" shell with hidden buttons in pumpkin, washer silk crepe de chine.

Silk is everywhere, much more wearable and versatile since it's become "washable"-- also in crepe, georgette and gabardine. Cotton, most popular in 100%, blends easily, with Lycra or Spandex for that stretch-appeal. TAHARI incorporates 90% cotton and 10% Lycra in a "spiral wrap" dress--very body-hugging. Rayon grows in popularity, both alone and as a blend; PERRY ELLIS PORTOLIO uses 100% rayon in a short, side-draped skirt or blends it with silk for contoured tanks and crews. Linen combines with rayon or silk for a smoother, non-wrinkled look; and with cotton denim for that "stone-washed" or chambray interest. CALVIN KLEIN CLASSICS tops a "classic jean skirt" with a matching

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BRIDGE-- Continued

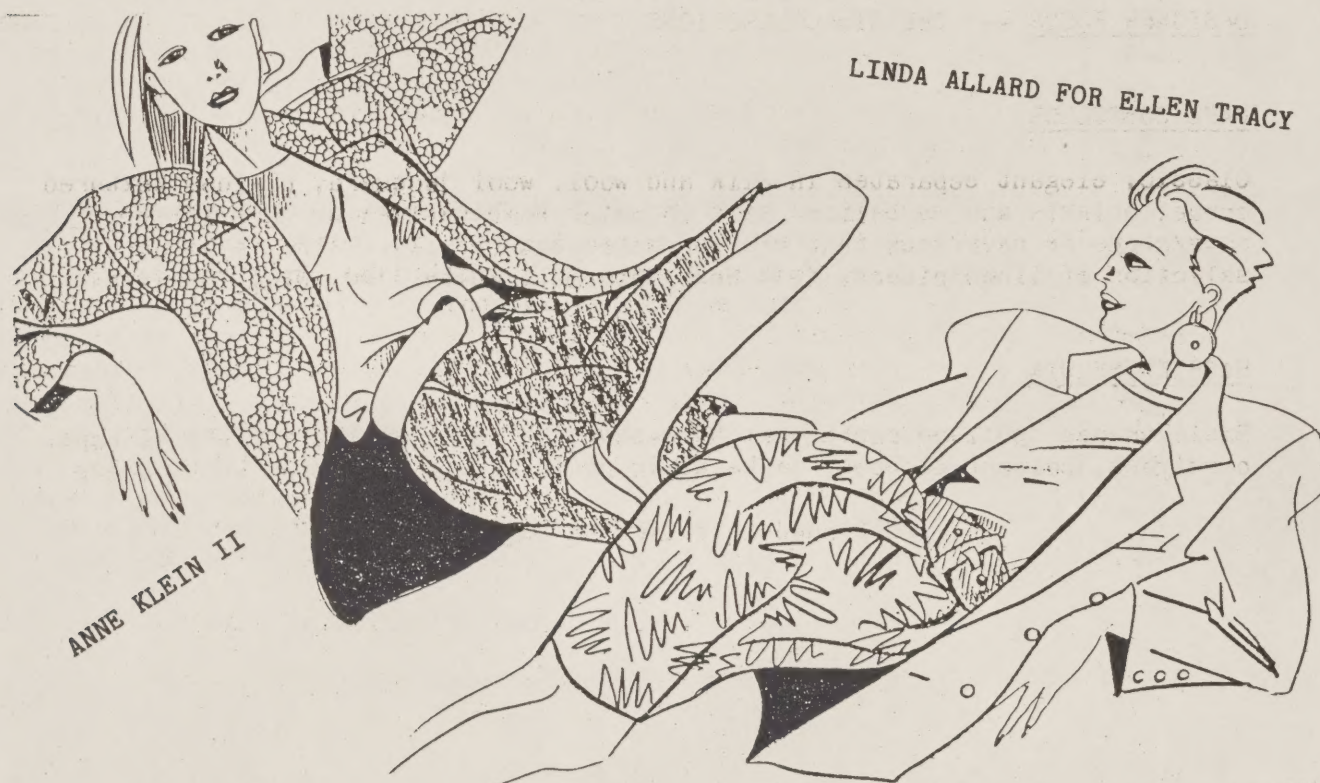
bolero, both in 65% cotton denim and 35% linen-- in black, white or indigo.

THE SUIT: Very curvaceous, with jackets getting longer and skirts getting shorter (anywhere from 19" to 23"). The eye follows an unbroken line from shoulder to mid-thigh, often accentuated by using outer seams. A fitted seamed jacket, with no pockets or lapels, blends into a high-waisted seamed skirt at 20", by CALVIN KLEIN CLASSICS, in cotton/spandex stretch suiting-- melon and coral look best. ANNE KLEIN II creates a modern suit with a linen/rayon, double-breasted blazer over dot print, silk jacquard pleated shorts, in yellow and black.

Novelty jackets are cropping up all over, alone or as part of a suit. TAHARI offers an array: the "frock jacket" with one-button closure, cinched at the waist with all around pleats; the flounced-back riding jacket with jewel neck and hidden placket; or the "tunnel suit", a self-belted pleated jacket with front and back placket and matching skirt-- all in silk. BLASSPORT has fun with a long, collarless, button-front jacket with check flap in lower right; and, for a cropped look, the square neck flyaway in awning stripe, navy and multi.

Casual "soft dressing", as another suit trend, is exemplified by sophisticated silks and versatile knits. LINDA ALLARD FOR ELLEN TRACY shows a long, double-breasted jacket over a softly pleated, tulip-shaped skirt, both in 100% silk. In a doubleknit mercerized cotton, DANA BUCHMAN jackets a strapless, back-buttoned dress or double elastic, side-buttoned skirt with a long, V-neck cardigan-- same length, in black or khaki.

Dresses follow suit: short, shapely, often strapless and seamed to accent the natural body lines. As for pants, the cropped pedal pusher has returned showing off more of the ankle. Today's woman desires the "hourglass figure" of the past, without the bulges-- and the Bridge designers deliver with clean, active, sophisticated designs. But the classic trouser is always available, along with the 35" skirt, for anyone who hasn't caught on.



FASHION COTERIE

Designers showing at the Fashion Coterie echoed the bridge market theme of short, spare and sensual. Although some manufacturers included longer skirts in their collections, the majority of hemlines hovered above the knee or-- up to thigh high. The eyecatchers in accessories were geometric shaped jewelry in bright pastel colors and others with primitive motifs. Art Deco pieces too were still in evidence.

TRENDS: Abbreviated, second skin dresses...Bare...cut-outs, slits, bare backs, midriffs, off-the-shoulder...Surface interest cloths...Mixture of fabric and patterns...Stretch...Animal skin prints...Bermuda, wide-leg walking and boxer shorts...Capri, clam digger, bicycle, baggy, and classic full cut trousers...Boxy, oversized knit pullovers, classic long cardigans in striped, floral and primitive patterns...Cropped and waist length tank, halter and trapeze tops...Knit dressing...from mini dresses to 2 and 3 piece ensembles...Dresses...A-line, slip and tank tops, sheaths...Jumpsuits continue...Jackets...cropped, cinched at the waist, bolero, treader, long and loose.

FABRICS: Linen and cotton, cotton jersey, blister stitch and double jersey, light-weight knits that stretch and pucker, silk and man-made crinkles, silk and wool blends, seersucker, poplin, denim (often with stretch), rayon, challis, matte jersey, voile, puckered crepe, crepe de chine, cloque, chiffon.

PATTERNS: Animal skins, madras, ombre, shadow and glen plaids, checks, comic book, South Sea and primitive motif prints, all over mini neats, foulards, bi-color and positive/negative patterns.

COLORS: Soft pastels, peach, celery, cream, butter, mint, ivory, bright red, turquoise, taxi yellow, hot pink, orange, purple, grass and lime green...Neutrals-- khaki, beige, olive, taupe...Navy, brown, black and white.

DESIGNER FOCUS -- THE RTW COLLECTIONS

PAUL COSTELLOE

Classic, elegant separates in silk and wool, wool jacquard, plaids, textured crepe, crinkle and marbelized silk in color combinations of navy/ivory, navy/stone or navy/aqua that mix and match beautifully. Also, a colorful selection of linen pieces. (214 West 39th St., Suite 1100, NYC; 764-7474)

HARRIET SELWYN

Basic shapes (pull-on pants, skirts --short or long, a wide variety of tops, cardigans, peasant blouses, jackets) in plain or eyelet cotton knit, sheer

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FASHION COTERIE-- Continued

HARRIET SELWYN

and heavier weight linen, embroidered cotton batiste, embroidered stretch denim that works together or may be combined with handknit cotton sweaters...other special groups are the squaw peasant ribbon trimmed skirts, black/white pin dot voiles with floral sequins, 100% silk crinkle chiffon, hand-embroidered chiffon, the cotton jacket with African animal appliques and the raffia bolero.
(1853 Franklin Canyon Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; 213-274-3087)

ARKITECT

Young, snappy English sportswear...rayon reversible bomber jacket, set-in-back belted jacket, tri-color mini skirts and tunics, linen walking shorts, big shirts, mini stretch knit skirts, midriff tops in bright colors or black and white.
(12 Castlehaven Road, Units 5, London NW1; 01-482-4864)

MELANIE

Unconstructed knitwear in cotton, linen and silk blends, striped, solid, and blister stitch heather jersey...pullover, cardigans, skirts and trousers, long jackets, 7/8 and full length coats. The garments have no buttons or zippers. (70A Woodland Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94091; 415-459-6292)

PINK DRAGON BY PINKY WOLMAN

Relaxed, kinky separates and dresses in solids, animal and South Sea, primitive folk art, comic book and her Pink Dragon signature prints.
(214 West 39th St., Room 901, NYC; 302-2094)

YVAN & MARZIA

Eclectic groups that range from beachwear to late day dressing in silk, crepe de chine, chiffon and lace. Fun and unusual...the pearlized rubber and lycra over-printed active sportswear. (110 E. 9th St., #C878, Los Angeles, CA; 213-489-4553)

****Don't Miss-- "THE GREAT FRENCH JEWELRY SYMPOSIUM":** At FIT, 227 W. 27th St., NYC;
10/17, 8:30 AM; Tkts, \$75.00.
Contact: 760-7254.

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